

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are presently pending in the application. Claims 19-29 are allowed. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 are rejected. Claims 2-4, 7 and 9-18 are objected to. The specification stands as filed. The drawings have been amended.

Reconsideration of the objections and rejections set forth in the aforementioned Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The basis for the amendments can be found throughout the Specification, Claims and Drawings as originally filed.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative, Donald G. Walker, during a telephonic interview conducted on October 22, 2004. During the interview, U.S. Patent No. 6,729,522 to Hempfling et al. was discussed in view of claims 1 and 8. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed with the Applicants that claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 are presently in condition for allowance and are not anticipated by Hempfling et al.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "72" and "47" have both been used to designate a filter (see Fig. 11). Applicants have attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheet", reference character "47" in Fig. 11 has been corrected to read "72". Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hempfling et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,729,522). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hempfling et al. does not disclose an automatic screwfeeder including a coupler rotatably captured on one of the first and second subassemblies as recited in claim 1. Specifically, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to paragraph 20 of the application where a nut 36 is described as being rotatably captured on the end of extension 24 and threadingly engageable with body 20 to couple front assembly 30 to rear assembly 32. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1, 5 and 6.

With reference to claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that Hempfling et al. does not disclose an automatic screwfeeder having a screw holder coupled to the second housing portion in communication with the screw feeding passageway, an extension spaced apart from the screw holder and coupled to the body and a driveshaft positioned with the extension and selectively drivingly engageable with the bit. On the contrary, Hempfling et al. discloses a single extended driver shaft 32 extending through lower and upper tubes 14 and 20. Hempfling et al. does not disclose a screw holder but simply allows screws to freely travel through feed tube 26. Also, an extension is not disclosed because Hempfling et al. utilizes only two tubes 20 and 14 which telescopically cooperate with one another. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102 rejection.

CONCLUSION

All of the grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding office action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If it is believed that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600. Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated October 25, 2004

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 11. The attached sheet, which includes Figure 11, replaces the original sheet including Figure 11.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet